

Minutes of the Work Co-operatives meeting held in Ballarat on the 8/8/80. The meeting started shortly after 12.00.

Co-operatives and groups represented were:

Bootstrap Co-op, Maryborough.

Lock Ard Co-op, Warrnambool.

Kyneton C.Y.S.S., Kyneton.

M'borough Producer's and Recycling Co-op. Maryborough.

Youth Council of Victoria.

Alexandra C.Y.S.S. Alexandra.

Brotherhood of St. Lawrence, Fitzroy.

E.P.U.Y. Melbourne.

WORCO , Hawthorn.

"Do - it" Cooperative, Doncaster.

U.W.U. Northcote.

N.E.D.P. Box Hill.

Coburg Youth Work.

B.U.G. Brunswick.

The Co-op Federation of Victoria.

F.A.C.S. (Ballarat).

Southern Cross Employment Collective. Ballarat.

Neville Stern (Brunswick) was elected to chair the meeting. The minutes were taken by Anthony Smith (Maryborough).

Mr. Bill Rawlinson (Executive officer for the Co-operative Federation of Victoria) was introduced to the meeting and spoke on the possible relationships that could develop between the Work Co-operatives, the Co-op Federation and the existing Co-op's. Bill spoke about various services (EG. educational, advisory, promotional) being available to co-op's who join the federation.

A recommendation has been made to the V.E.C., on our behalf, by the Co-operative Federation, for the appointment of a co-ordinating official to help the establishment and management of WORK Co-operatives. Bill Rawlinson suggested that the coordinating official's position could also alleviate some of the general secretarial, accounting and administration tasks of the individual co-operatives by using the facilities and personnel already established at the head-quarters of the co-operative federation.

Following some discussion, two resolutions were moved and carried by the meeting.

I. That we (the meeting of WORK Co-operatives) make a recommendation to all WORK Co-operatives to join the Co-operative Federation of Victoria and to meet under its auspices, as an interest group, in the future,

2. That we urge the state government to appoint at least one co-ordinator / development officer for Victoria to assist in the development and management and that this appointment be not at the expense of the funding of individual work co-op's. We also urge the state government to adopt a more co-ordinated and equitable approach to the funding of these ventures.

The meeting also felt that the issue of workers compo needed to be followed through thoroughly.

Doug Marshall (F.A.C.S. Ballarat) was introduced to the meeting and spoke on the role of F.A.C.S. within communities and suggested that small fundings may be available for local self help groups.

An Implementation group was elected by the meeting to follow through several directives issued by the meeting.

The group was comprised of
Rod Duncan (Loch Ard Co-op.)
Karen Hall (C.Y.S.S. Alexandra)
Neville Stern (B.U.G.)
Tony Gill (Southern Cross Employment Collective)

The directives for this group were :

- to follow through the Worker's Compo issue,
- to compile a report of this meeting to issue to all Co-ops.
- to send a copy of the minutes of this meeting to Bill Rawlinson.
- that we support the action of the co-operative federation and to suggest that the co-operative federation adopt our second motion.
- that questions be framed for co-op members to put to their local parliamentarians regarding the VEC, its fundings, budgeting etc.
- that copies of the Youth for Conservation scheme be distributed to the WORK co-op's.
- that copies of our resolutions be sent to the V.E.C. minister, chairman, director and to our local members.